

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed June 7, 2006:

1. The drawings were objected to; and
2. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maston (U.S. Patent No. 4,695,112).

I Drawings

The specification has been amended to refer to “identification 110” of Figure 1.

II Maston (U.S. Patent No. 4,695,112)

A. Maston Does Not Suggest Including Identification Means on a PCB

Claimed embodiments of the present invention recite a form of identification for identifying a mechanism, tab or key of a circuit board or assembly, so that the disabling of the circuit board or assembly can be proved.

The Examiner cited to Maston as disclosing “identification means for identifying the mechanism,” but Maston does not disclose this.

The Examiner referred to the reference labels “NO-3” and “NO-4” that appear in FIG. 1 of Maston. However, a cursory reading of the Maston specification shows that these labels are placed there merely for the purposes of identifying the 3rd and 4th conductor runs of circuit board 12, not to suggest or indicate that the labels actually appear on the circuit board.

In particular, Maston mentions “a parallel set pattern of conductor runs at an output end of plug 16. The conductor runs, illustratively, may be seven conventional etched copper conductor runs” (column 2, lines 11-14).

In the same paragraph, Maston is describing a key portion of the invention: lock-hole 22, which receives a latch for securing edgeboard connector 14 to plug 16. Maston identifies a preferred location for the lock-hole as being “illustratively between conductor runs No. 3 and No. 4 of plug 16” (column 2, lines 20-21).

Thus, it seems very clear that the NO-3 and NO-4 labels appearing in FIG. 1 are just that – labels used for illustration. One of ordinary skill in the art would **not** believe Maston to be suggesting one to actually place a label on a conductor run. Doing so would very likely affect

the electrical characteristics of the conductor run and negatively affect the interface between the circuit board and anything connected to the conductor run.

III Selected Claims

A. Claims 1-7

Claim 1 recites identification means which, as described above in Section II, Maston fails to suggest.

Claims 5-8 were amended to depend from claim 1 vice cancelled claim 4.

B. Claims 8-16

Claims 8-16 were cancelled without prejudice.

C. Claims 17-26

Claims 17-26 were cancelled without prejudice.

D. Claims 27-33

Claims 27-33 were cancelled without prejudice.

E. Claims 34-42

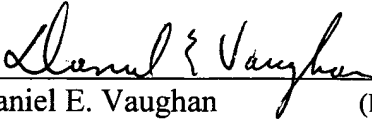
New claims 34-42 were added, and correspond to an embodiment of the invention depicted in FIG. 1.

CONCLUSION

No new matter has been added with the preceding amendments. It is submitted that the application is in suitable condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. If prosecution of this application may be facilitated through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 8, 2006

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